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UNCLAS PANAMA 000439

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PM](#) [OAS](#) [POLITICS](#) [FOREIGN](#) [POLICY](#)

SUBJECT: PANAMA SUPPORTS US VIEWS ON OAS SOCIAL CHARTER

REF: A. STATE 28929

[1](#)B. PANAMA 00388

(SBU) On February 25, Panamanian Foreign Minister Samuel Lewis Navarro informed DCM that he had given instructions to Panamanian OAS Ambassador Royo to argue that the chair of the working group that will draft the OAS social charter and action plan should be chosen by consensus. FM Lewis said that the GOP does not want the issue to go to a vote because it believes that may create ideological divisions within the OAS. Lewis said he would make that point to his colleagues at the presidential inauguration in Montevideo on March 1.  
Watt